

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

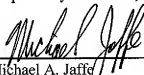
The Examiner has now withdrawn the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and withdrawn the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 of claims 1-4 and 6-8 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,457,897 to Becker. However, the Examiner continues to reject claims 1-5, and 7-12 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,288,467 to Biermaier, and continues to reject claim 13 as being obvious in view of the combined teachings of Biermaier and U.S. Patent Publication No. US2003/0036272 to Shamouilian et al.

The applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the telephone interviews held on June 20, 2006 and July 6, 2006. During the telephone of interview of June 20, 2006, the Examiner and the applicant's representative discussed Biermaier '467 in detail. In view of the comments made by the Examiner during the telephone interview, the applicant prepared the present amendment to the claims. During the telephone interview of July 6, 2006, the Examiner indicated to the applicant's representative that the amended claims, as submitted herewith, would be entered into the present application and that he believed the claimed invention was now patentable over the cited references. Furthermore, the Examiner indicated that the present application should be in condition for allowance upon entry of the amended claims.

If the Examiner believes there are any further matters that need to be discussed in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0537, referencing our Docket No. ST8618US.

Respectfully submitted,



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